

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION INFORMATION LETTER

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COLOR STANDARDS FOR TOMATOES UNDER McNARY-MAPES LAW

The color standards for tomatoes promulgated by the Department of Agriculture under the McNary-Mapes Law are published in Service and Regulatory Announcements, F. D. No. 4, Revision 1. They were reproduced in Information Letter No. 402, page 2451. The following method is suggested for testing the color of tomatoes:

Drain the entire contents of one can on a half-inch mesh screen of the diameter specified in the regulations (if desired, the drained meats may first be weighed to determine the per cent of drained solids). Transfer all of the drained meats to an 8-mesh wire screen and force all the tomatoes through the screen by pressing with a flat surface, such as the bottom of a metal cup or a glass tumbler. All but a few seeds and some fiber may be forced through the screen. All of the material that stays on the screen, including the under side of the screen, must be carefully scraped off with a spoon and thoroughly mixed with the strained material. A black dish for comparing the color of the strained material may be made by cutting a No. 1 can to form a cup one inch deep and painting it inside and out with flat black paint. Fill this cup with the thoroughly mixed pulp obtained as described above by passing it through an 8-mesh screen. Push the seeds under the surface with a rod or pencil. Compare the color of this prepared sample with a color comparator. The color of the sample should show more red than the standard color comparator.

The Universal Color Standards, Inc., 500 North Calvert St., Baltimore, Md., manufactures a color comparator for this purpose, which is sold at the price of \$3.95.

CALIFORNIA ASPARAGUS PACK

The Canners League of California has issued figures showing the division of the California asparagus pack into all-green and regular pack products. This year the regular pack amounted to 1,538,092 cases, as compared with 2,410,929 in 1930, while the all-green pack was 209,407 cases as compared with 252,262 last year.

TRUCK CROP MARKETS

Combined shipments of 37 important fruits and vegetables decreased to 17,440 cars during the week ended August 15, compared with about 19,900 the preceding week, according to the Market News Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Sharp reductions occurred in movement of cantaloupes, peaches and watermelons:

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Aug. 9-15 1931	Aug. 2-8 1931	Aug. 10-16 1930	Total this ses- son thru Aug. 15	Total last ses- son thru Aug. 16	Total last season
Apples, total	313	296	596	4,166	5,077	100,807
Eastern states	148	93	306	2,268	2,985	43,263
Western states	165	203	290	1,898	2,092	66,544
Beans, snap and lima ..	44	38	48	8,003	8,867	9,550
Beets	1	6	1,492
Blackberries, dewberries, loganberries	30	26	207
Cabbage	215	293	515	20,055	17,048	38,310
Carrots	48	42	72	8,908	9,604	12,441
Cauliflower	50	19	29	225	118	6,002
Cherries	11	12	4	1,896	2,562	2,581
Cucumbers	105	43	112	5,513	6,350	6,643
Mixed deciduous fruit ..	142	198	449	2,141	2,944	5,921
Mixed vegetables	309	367	519	20,719	21,838	31,180
Peaches	4,243	6,449	3,323	20,290	23,473	38,499
Pears	1,469	1,203	2,242	7,762	8,760	28,835
Peas, green	165	164	117	6,080	5,747	6,800
Peppers	4	6	14	2,551	2,153	2,786
Plums and prunes	154	80	241	3,465	4,879	8,716
Spinach	10	4	9	9,362	9,412	9,636
Tomatoes	199	205	237	21,484	23,225	34,060

EMPLOYMENT IN JULY

The combined totals of 15 major industrial groups having in July 4,491,521 employees whose earnings in one week were \$104,280,547 show a decrease of 2 per cent in employment and a decrease of 4.8 per cent in pay-roll totals as compared with June. Employment in manufacturing industries alone in July decreased 2.5 per cent as compared with June, and pay-roll totals decreased 5.4 per cent. Per capita earnings in manufacturing industries in July were 3.1 per cent less than in June.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES IN JULY

The recent downward movement of wholesale prices halted in July, according to the index number computed by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This index number, based on average prices for 1926 as 100, was 70 for July, being no change from the June figure. When compared with July, 1930, having an index of 84, a decrease of 16 2/3 per cent is shown.

Retail prices in 51 cities of the United States, as reported to the Bureau, show an average increase of about one-half of

1 per cent on July 15 when compared with June 15, and an average decrease of about 17½ per cent since July 15, 1930. The average price of canned red salmon and canned corn decreased 1 per cent. No change was reported in evaporated milk, canned peas, tomatoes, and pork and beans.

BUSINESS INDICATORS

(Weeks ended Saturday; weekly average 1923-25=100)

	1931			1930		
	Aug. 15	Aug. 8	Aug. 1	Aug. 16	Aug. 9	Aug. 2
General business:*						
New York Times.....	72.5	a73.8	87.3	80.9	85.2	
Business Week.....	74.2	a73.0	87.7	87.2	80.6	
Freight car loadings.....	76.6	79.0	96.3	94.3	95.9	
Wholesale prices (Fisher's):						
All commodities.....	69.5	69.5	69.3	83.6	83.1	82.9
Agricultural products...	59.0	59.3	69.0	86.8	85.4	84.8
Nonagricultural products	72.5	72.5	71.8	81.8	81.7	81.9
Bank debits outside New						
York City.....	83.0	96.1	77.8	102.9	116.6	100.8
Bond prices.....	104.7	105.6	100.4	107.6	107.5	107.2
Stock prices.....	128.9	126.7	129.8	196.9	202.9	206.8
Interest rates:						
Call money.....	36.4	36.4	36.4	60.6	56.5	48.5
Time money.....	34.3	34.3	34.3	75.2	80.0	80.0
Business failures.....	110.8	117.0	118.7	108.4	111.1	115.9

* Relative to a computed normal taken as 100.

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CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended August 8.....	734,780	280,267	214,455	240,058
Preceding week.....	757,293	287,312	213,017	256,964
Corresponding week, 1930....	904,157	340,854	234,040	329,263
Corresponding week, 1929....	1,002,153	428,722	250,253	401,178

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Cool weather persisted during the week ended August 18 over the southern half of the country, and maximum temperatures were mostly moderate in the interior and North, though high over limited areas of the Northwest, according to the weekly report of the Weather Bureau.

Rainfall was scanty to entirely lacking over the greater part of the country. Most of the Atlantic states again had generous rains, while the lower Mississippi Valley and east Gulf sections had rather frequent showers, with some excessive falls along the Gulf. The Ohio Valley had only light to moderate rains, except for some heavy rain in upper valley sections; elsewhere east of the Rockies the week was generally dry. Some good rains occurred locally in Rocky Mountain districts, but to the westward it was largely rainless.

In the Ohio Valley the progress of corn varied greatly in Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky, but in most places it continued

satisfactory. In Ohio, the Atlantic states and the southeast, moisture conditions have been favorable and development is good to excellent. Cooler weather and the recent moisture has checked deterioration in Missouri, while growth is mostly satisfactory in northeastern Kansas and southeastern Nebraska. In Iowa there was again practically no rain and corn deteriorated further in the north, as well as on uplands in the central and southern sections; in the drier counties there are many barren stalks and ears are filling poorly. In Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and the northern Plains, continued dryness has been decidedly unfavorable.

POULTRY USED IN CANNING

Poultry canned or used for canning by 31 firms reporting to the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics for July, 1931, totaled 1,261,152 pounds. Thirty firms reporting for June, 1931, used 1,043,770 pounds. Twenty-seven firms that reported using 1,026,522 pounds in July this year, used 1,899,700 pounds during July a year ago. The U. S. Market News Service reports the quantity as follows, the figures for drawn poultry having been converted to an undrawn basis, assuming a 25 per cent shrinkage in drawing:

	July, 1931	June, 1931	July 1931	1930
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Dressed poultry canned or used in canning	982,008	781,054	886,804	1,525,188
Drawn poultry canned or used in canning	279,144	262,716	139,028	374,512
Total	1,261,152	1,043,770	1,026,522	1,899,700
Number of firms reporting	31	30	27	27

SOUR CHERRY COOPERATIVES COMBINE SALES ACTIVITIES

Cooperative associations marketing sour red cherries in Wisconsin, Michigan, and New York where 85 per cent of this fruit is produced in the United States have unified their sales activities through the Cherry Sales Corporation, Sturgeon Bay, Wis. Financial and other assistance has been extended to the cooperatives by the Federal Farm Board in working out this program. Some months ago loans were made to the Wisconsin and Michigan associations to assist them in combining their sales efforts.

The Wayne County Cherry Growers Cooperative, Inc., of Sodus, N. Y., has just been granted a commodity loan by the Board, supplementing a primary loan from the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, Springfield, Mass., with the understanding that the association's cherries will be marketed through the Central Sales Corporation. Funds thus obtained from the two

sources will be used to pay the processing costs involved in cold packing 1,400,000 pounds of sour red cherries, and to make sufficient advances to its grower members to cover their 1931 harvesting expenses.

The Wayne County Cherry Growers Cooperative, Inc., is a new organization representing from 30 to 35 per cent of sour red cherries in the areas served. It was established in June by growers working in cooperation with the New York State Agricultural College and the Farm Board. James G. Case, of Sodus, N. Y., is president of the organization.

MARKING REQUIREMENTS IN FRENCH INDO-CHINA

A recent decision by the Court of Appeals at Saigon sets a precedent in French Indo-China, whereby none of the canned foods enumerated in the law of July 11, 1906, may be admitted into French Indo-China, for either consumption or transportation, unless they bear stamped on the tins, in letters at least 4 millimeters in size, in the middle of the top or bottom and in a place not containing any impression, in accordance with this law, the words "Etats Unis d' Amerique."

REDUCED IMPORT DUTY ON SARDINES IN URUGUAY

A reduction in the import duty on sardines, effective as of August 1, 1931, is provided in the legislation complementary to the temporary extension of the 1930 Uruguayan budget, according to a cablegram from the American commercial attache at Montevideo.

Sardines in oil, heretofore dutiable at 0.50 peso per kilo (23.5 cents per pound) plus a surtax of 24 per cent of the official valuation of 23.5 cents per pound, including container, now pay only 14.1 cents per pound plus a surtax of 14 per cent of the official valuation mentioned above; while sardines, in flasks, tins, or jars, heretofore dutiable at 14.1 cents per pound plus a surtax of 24 per cent of the official valuation of 9.4 cents per pound, including container, now pay only 4.7 cents per pound, plus a surtax of 14 per cent of the above-mentioned official valuation.

CANADA AMENDS CUSTOMS VALUATIONS ON MEATS

The following amended customs valuations for import duty purposes were established by Canadian Appraisers' Bulletin No. 3662, Supplement 11, dated August 17, 1931:

Prepared or preserved meats: Bacon and hams—cured, pickled, or smoked—26¾ cents per pound; skinned or boned, 35 cents per pound; cooked, 50 cents per pound. Prepared or preserved meats not otherwise provided for, 24 cents per pound.

The above ruling amends the values as established September 29, 1930, which were as follows:

Meats, prepared or preserved: Bacon, ham, etc., 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents per pound; those not otherwise provided for, 24 cents per pound.

BRITISH IMPORTS OF RUSSIAN CANNED FOODS

Imports of canned foods into the United Kingdom from Russia, according to figures published in the official report of debates in the House of Commons, have been as follows during the years 1929 and 1930 and the first quarter of 1931:

	Quantity			Value		
	1929	1930	1st quarter 1931	1929	1930	1st quarter 1931
Fruit preserved without sugar:	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>			
Canned or bottled.	952,336	1,184,024	673,904	\$49,905	\$64,005	\$30,744
Other	5,013,904	3,881,584	500,192	413,818	215,707	28,443
Fruit, preserved in sugar: Tinned...	262,528	404,544	125,328	18,456	33,067	7,019
Salmon, canned...	41,142,804	60,058,880	2,195,424	10,010,170	12,895,800	338,281
Tomatoes, canned..	500,824	600,032	231,504	20,312	30,831	8,931

RECEIPTS OF CANNED FRUITS AT BRITISH PORTS

Arrivals of canned fruits at the chief ports of Great Britain during the first six months of 1931 amounted to about 2,900,000 cases, according to information received by the U. S. Department of Commerce. Peaches, pears and pineapples accounted for over 70 per cent of this total.

ARGENTINA'S CANNED MEAT EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

Exports of canned corned beef from Argentina to the United States during June, 1931, totaled 1,401,216 pounds valued at \$124,418, according to the American vice consul at Buenos Aires.

NORTH CAROLINA PROHIBITS NIGHT WORK FOR GIRLS

An act of the North Carolina legislature of 1931 prohibits the employment of girls between 16 and 18 years of age after 9 o'clock at night and before 6 o'clock in the morning in mills, factories, canneries, or manufacturing establishments.

REVISED BULLETIN ON TOMATO GROWING

A revised edition of the bulletin on tomatoes as a truck crop has been issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as Farmers' Bulletin 1338-F. The bulletin includes recent information on growing, gathering and preparing tomatoes for market. Many of the suggestions have been gleaned from the experience

of successful truck growers. The bulletin includes the following topics: soils, crop rotation, varieties, seed sources, methods of sowing seed, hotbeds and coldframes, growing plants, preparing land, fertilizers, field planting, cultivation, irrigation, staking and pruning, insects and diseases, and gathering and preparing the crop for market.

SECOND HEARING ON PHONY PEACH QUARANTINE

A public hearing at Washington on September 15 has been announced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to consider the advisability of extending the quarantine on account of the phony peach disease to Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. As an alternative to the extension, the question of the possible discontinuance of the Federal restrictions on account of this disease will also be discussed.

BULLETIN ON HOME CANNING REVISED

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is now distributing a revised edition of "Canning Fruits and Vegetables at Home," which was originally issued in 1926 as Farmers' Bulletin No. 1471. Various changes have been made in the text of the bulletin. Those of most interest to canners relate to the examination of canned foods before they are used and to the processing of non-acid products.

Among the changes is the omission of the recommendation that "all canned vegetables and meats be boiled for at least 10 minutes before they are tasted." As to non-acid products, including asparagus, string beans, lima beans, baby beets, corn, greens (including spinach), mushrooms, okra, green peas, black-eyed peas, pumpkin and squash, and sweet potatoes, the bulletin states: "Process all these vegetables in the pressure canner; if no pressure canner is available, it is recommended that methods of preservation other than canning be used."

RATES ON VEGETABLES FROM FLORIDA LOWERED

The Interstate Commerce Commission in a decision made public August 20, has found unreasonable the rates on vegetables in carloads from producing points in Florida to destinations throughout the United States, and has prescribed new bases of rates and carload minima for the future. Changes in the rates represent a reduction from those heretofore in force. The basis of the carload rates on oranges and grapefruit from peninsula Florida to the territory east of transcontinental territory has been found reasonable.

OYSTER PACK AND STOCKS

According to data collected by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, the pack of canned oysters during the season September, 1930, to June, 1931, amounted to 267,020 standard cases of forty-eight 5-ounce cans valued at \$866,882, as compared with a pack of 447,316 standard cases valued at \$2,206,417 during the previous season. This is a decrease of 40 per cent in the pack and 61 per cent in the value of the pack. Mississippi accounted for 54 per cent of the 1930-1931 pack; South Carolina, 29 per cent; and Louisiana, 5 per cent. The remaining 12 per cent was produced in North Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Alabama.

A survey by the Bureau shows that unsold stocks of canned oysters in the hands of packers as of May 1, 1931, amounted to 77,937 standard cases as compared with 76,629 standard cases on hand on October 1, 1930. The quantity held on May 1 represents a volume equivalent to 29 per cent of the entire pack of the 1930-1931 season. Of the total, 68 per cent was in the hands of packers in the Gulf sections and 32 per cent in the South Atlantic section.

NEW METHOD OF CONTROL FOR LESSER PEACH BORER

Paradichlorobenzene dissolved in crude cottonseed oil at the rate of one of the chemical to two quarts of oil and applied with a paint brush is the latest and most satisfactory control measure for the lesser peach borer, according to Circular 172-C issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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